

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 56, 57, 90-94 and 96 are pending in the application, with 56, 57, 94 and 96 being the independent claims. Claim 94 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 58-61, 95 and 97 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 58-61, 95 and 97 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,641,442 to Boucher in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0132642 to Hines et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. However, to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have cancelled claims 58-61, 95 and 97 to thereby render this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

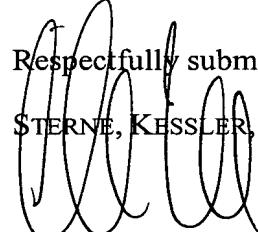
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 56, 57, 90-94 and 96. Since only these claims remain pending, Applicants respectfully assert that this application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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